

**Amendments to the Claims**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Currently Amended) A method for making an absorbent composite from a continuous tow comprising the steps of:

spreading a crimped tow in a direction perpendicular to the tow's travel;

de-registering the crimped tow;

shaping the de-registered tow; and

distributing a particulate onto the shaped tow,

wherein a line speed of the particulate laden, shaped tow being greater than 190 m/min

thereby forming an absorbent composite adapted for use in a disposable absorbent garment.

2. (Original) The method of Claim 1 wherein the line speed being greater than 225 m/min.

3. (Original) The method of Claim 1 further comprising shaping the de-registered tow to a substantially rectangular cross-section.

4. (Original) The method of Claim 1 further comprising applying a liquid to the tow.

5. (Currently amended) ~~A The method of claim 1 for making an absorbent composite from a continuous tow comprising the steps of:~~

~~spreading a crimped tow in a direction perpendicular to the tow's travel;~~

~~de-registering the crimped tow;~~

~~shaping the de-registered tow; and~~

~~distributing a particulate onto the shaped tow;~~

wherein a ratio of tow line speed exiting from de-registration to tow line speed of particulate laden, shaped tow being in the range of 1.8 to 3.0.

6. (Original) The method of Claim 5 wherein the ratio being 2.4.

7. (Cancelled)

8. (Cancelled)

9. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for making an absorbent composite from a continuous tow comprising:

means for spreading a crimped tow in a direction perpendicular to the tow's travel;

means for de-registering the crimped tow;  
means for shaping the de-registered tow; and  
means for distributing a particulate onto the shaped tow,

wherein a line speed of the particulate laden, shaped tow being greater than 190 m/min

thereby forming a means for making an absorbent composite adapted for use in a disposable absorbent garment.

10. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 9 wherein the line speed being greater than 225 m/min.

11. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 9 further comprising means for shaping the de-registered tow to a substantially rectangular cross-section.

12. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 9 further comprising means for applying a liquid to the tow.

13. (Currently amended) An The apparatus of claim 9 for  
~~making an absorbent composite from a continuous tow comprising:~~  
~~\_\_\_\_\_ means for spreading a crimped tow in a direction~~  
~~perpendicular to the tow's travel;~~  
~~\_\_\_\_\_ means for de-registering the crimped tow;~~  
~~\_\_\_\_\_ means for shaping the de-registered tow; and~~

~~means for distributing a particulate onto the shaped tow,~~

wherein a ratio of tow line speed exiting from de-registration to tow line speed of particulate laden, shaped tow being in the range of 1.8 to 3.0.

14. The apparatus of Claim 13 wherein the ratio being 2.4.

15. (Cancelled)

16. (Cancelled)